

**Statement of Michael J. Riley
President**

**MICHAEL J. RILEY
PRESIDENT**

**Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
Before
The Joint Committee on Transportation
March 4, 2009**

**Re: SB No. 1072 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE
REISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A COMMERCIAL
DRIVER'S INSTRUCTION PERMIT**

I am Michael J. Riley, President of Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC), a statewide trade association, which represents around 1,000 companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in and through the state of Connecticut. Our membership includes freight haulers, movers of household goods, construction companies, distributors, tank truck operators and hundreds of companies that use trucks in their business and firms that provide goods and services to truck owners.

MTAC SUPPORTS THIS BILL

This is a good bill which corrects an unfortunate provision in the law authorizing persons, wishing to obtain a Commercial Drivers License (CDL), to obtain a learners permit.

Previous law limited a candidate for a CDL to two learners permits, 6 months in duration, in a two-year period. This meant that someone who was practicing to drive, with another experienced CDL holder, could only get two six month permits in a year, and then have to wait another year to get another permit. We actually had some persons in this very circumstance this year.

No one at the Department of Motor Vehicles could explain why that provision was in the law. This bill will allow a student driver to get as many learners permits as he needs to learn how to drive a truck.

Since we currently have a couple of people affected by this law, we feel that the effective date of this bill should be upon passage. That would allow these persons to get on with their career plans.

